(b) Number of applications pending:—

Public Sector Banks:	NIL
Private Sector Banks:	As on April, 1998, 40 applications were pending. State-wise details are as under:—

State	No. of pending applications
Andhra Pradesh	4
Bihar	1
Gujrat	2
Haryana	4
Himachal Pradesh	1
Karnataka	1
Kerala	1
Maharashtra	6
Madhya Pradesh	3
Orissa	2
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	4
Tamil Nadu	2
Uttar Pradesh	3
New Delhi (UT)	1
West Bengal	2
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One applicant has not indicated the Centre at which at proposes to locate the Head Quarters of the Bank.

As regard SCBs/DCCBs, no application is pending.

Rural Wealth Tax

4486. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose a rural wealth tax;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any such attempt was made earlier to impose tax on wealthy rural people; and

(d) if so, with what results and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No. Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation

4487. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to grant the status of a public finance institution to infrastructure Development Finance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 1998-99 has, inter-alia, announced that in order to put Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited (IDFC) on par with other all India public Financial Institutions in the matter of fiscal incentives and fund rasing benefits extended to these institutions, it is proposed to make necessary amendments to the Companies Act.

Loans to farmers

4488. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount provided as loans by banks to the farmers of various States during the preceding three years till now, State-wise particularly in Assam;

(b) the percentage of loans provided to the farmers of the State during the

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aforesaid period as compared to the national statitistics; and

(c) the number of applications received from the farmers for providing loans during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) The details of loans provided by scheduled commercial banks in Assam for agriculture and its percentage to total loans (All-India), as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

As on the last Friday of	Advances disbursed				Percentage to Net Bank Credit
	Assam		All-India		
	A/cs	Amount	A/cs	Amount	
June 1993	22575	13.51	5054093	4962.18	0.27
June 1994	16480	14.18	5269266	5632.67	0.32
June 1995 (latest available)	30585	18.46	6278108	8042.53	0.23

State-wise details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(c) The data reporting system of RBI does not generate such information.

Foreign Banks reducing branches in West Bengal

4489. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the move of a number of foreign banks to reduce the number of branches in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ANZ Grindlays Bank has closed/merged five out of eighteen branches in Calcutta under its redistribution plan. The Considerations for closure/merger of branches are as under:

1. Close proximity to another branch of the bank

2. Past performance below expected level; and

3. Low future potential.

Citi Bank has closed one out of its two branches in Calcutta on commercial consideration.

Revival package of Dunlop India Limited

4490. SHRI JIBON ROY:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dunlop Management has proposed a revival package before BIFR;

(b) if so, the main points of the package;

(c) whether the management claimed that the company would earn profit in 18 months if the package is approved; and